



To Nancy Rumrill/R9/USEPA/US@EPA

cc

bcc

09/19/2008 11:40 AM

Subject Public comment on Permit #HI50710003

History:

↳ This message has been forwarded.

Re: Lahaina, HI WWRF UIC Permit # HI5071003

Dear Ms. Rumrill:

I am writing to request that a public information meeting and a public hearing be held on the Lahaina, HI UIC permit #HI5071003.

The permit as written does not protect one of Maui's primary natural resources - its coral reefs. Coral reefs did not evolve with urban pollution, but today they find themselves living right next to major sources of chemicals and nutrients. One particular reef, Kahekili, has shown a decline in coral cover and an increase in both native and invasive algae. It is very close to some of the Lahaina Sewage Treatment Plant injection wells. The nutrients from injection wells have been shown in recent scientific studies to increase algae growth, which has long been known to threaten coral reef health.

I believe that the nitrogen concentrations that are currently allowed at Lahaina are too high and require amendment. I also believe that there should be a reduction in the amount of water injected, by piping to areas such as Kaanapali for irrigation.

I ask that the EPA come to Maui and hear testimony on these issues, as the continued existence of our reefs depends on changing our current water management practices.

Thank you for your time.

Pauline Fiene  
Kihei, Maui